

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----241419Z 021821 /47
O 241231Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1831

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 5342

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CONSTABLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, PFOR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED

1. IN MY EARLIER MESSAGE PASSING ON SOME THOUGHTS ON YOUR MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED AND THE ANTI-AMERICAN ISSUE, I MENTIONED THAT WE WOULD BE SENDING A SEPARATE CABLE OUTLINING SOME OTHER ISSUES THE FORIEGN MINISTER MAY RAISE WITH YOU IN PARIS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ONLY ISSUE HE MAY WANT TO DISCUSS IS THE ANTI-AMERICAN ALLEGATIONS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP THAT HE MIGHT WANT TO BRING UP IN HIS FIRST MEETING WITH YOU. THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THOSE ITEMS AND SOME GENERAL THOUGHTS ON EACH.

2. ECONOMIC AID: GIVEN THE CURRENT STRONG GOP EFFORT TO PERSUADE ITS AID DONORS TO MAKE ADVANCE AID PLEDGES BEFORE THE TWICE-POSTPONED CONSORTIUM MEETING TAKES PLACE IN OCTOBER, IT IS LILELY THAT AZIZ AHMED WILL RAISE WITH YOU THE QUESTION OF A US PLEDGE OF ECONOMIC AID IN ADVANCE OF THIS AUTUMN CONSORTIUM MEETING. THE MOST APPROPRIATE ANSWER AT THIS TIME, IT SEEMS TO US, IS THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY PAKISTAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND THE PROGRESS OF THE SIXTH PLAN, BUT
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THAT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF AID ADVANCE PLANNING FIGURES CAN BEST TAKE PLACE WHEN WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN HAS BECOME A THING OF THE PAST. IF IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MEETING, YOU MAY WISH TO MENTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING TO INCREASE ITS BILATERAL AID LEVELS IN MOST RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, AND THAT OUR TENTATIVE PLANNING FOR PAKISTAN FOR FY 1978, AS INDICATED

IN THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION SUBMITTED LAST FEBRUARY,
HAD BEEN FOR AN INCREASED LEVEL.

3. ARMS SALES: AZIZ AHMED MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEETING
TO PUSH PAKISTANI REQUESTS FOR ARMS SALES. ON SPECIFIC SYSTEMS,
HE WOULD FOCUS HIS ATTENTION ON THEIR DESIRE TO PURCHASE 110
A-7 AIRCRAFT. HE MAY ALSO MENTION THE GOP REQUEST FOR AN LOA
FOR THE COBRA HELICOPTER WHICH THE PAKISTAN ARMY WANTS TO BUY
AND EQUIP WITH THE TOW WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY SOLD THEM. WE
HAVE NOT YET REPLIED TO THE GOP REQUEST FOR THE COBRA LOA.

4. I UNDERSTAND FROM THE CABLE WE RECEIVED OUTLINING SPECIFIC
TALKING POINTS WITH THE GOP ON OUR NEW ARMS SALES POLICY, THAT
YOU WILL PROBABLY DISCUSS THIS TOPIC WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER
IN PARIS. BEYOND A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE POLICY WILL DIRECTLY
AFFECT PAKISTAN, I THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO REITERATE,
IF AZIZ AHMED DOES RAISE SPECIFIC REQUESTS, THAT WE FIRST HAVE
TO SEE WHETHER THE AIR HAS CLEARED AND THAT THE ANTI-AMERICAN
CAMPAIGN HAS STOPPED, BEFORE WE CAN BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT NEW
REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
OUR ARMS SUPPLY AND NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES.

5. REPROCESSING: AZIZ AHMED MAY SEE THE PARIS SETTING AS AN
OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO RAISE THE REPROCESSING ISSUE AND HE COULD
NOTE THAT THE BALL IS IN OUR COURT. THE PM HAS TOLD US HE IS
WILLING TO HOLD DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE. WE DID NOT REPLY TO
HIS INITIATIVE WITH SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS BECAUSE OF
THE UNSETTLED POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN PAKISTAN. I TOLD BHUTTO
ON MAY 23 (ISLAMABAD 5292) OUR RESPONSE WAS HELD UP WHILE THE
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USG FORMULATED A NEW GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY. I BELIEVE
OUR POSITION NOW SHOULD BE THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO RESUME
TALKS WHEN OUR RELATIONS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL STATE.

6. VISIT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATION THIS IS IN THE
CARDS, IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT BHUTTO MAY THINK,
FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL REASONS, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR
HIM TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. HE WOULD COME TO THIS
CONCLUSION ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ATTEMPT TO RETURN OUR
RELATIONSHIP TO ITS FORMER BASIS. IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE,
THOUGH NOT LIKELY, THAT AZIZ AHMED COULD ASK IF HIS PRIME
MINISTER CAN MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE STATES TO MEET THE
PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. A VARIATION
ON THE THEME WOULD BE AN INVITATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO
VISIT PAKISTAN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 5342

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7. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IF THIS ISSUE IS RAISED EITHER IN TERMS OF A CARTER OR BHUTTO VISIT, THE BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO AVOID A DIRECT REPLY. WE COULD REFER TO THE FACT THAT TRADITIONALLY WHENEVER WE HAVE A NEW ADMINISTRATION IN THE STATES, THE LEADER OF PAKISTAN HAS EVENTUALLY COME ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AND SEVERAL US PRESIDENTS HAVE VISITED PAKISTAN. WE THINK IT PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT SUCH A VISIT, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE ATMOSPHERE IS RIGHT AND THERE ARE NO IRRITANTS WHICH COULD MAR THE SUCCESS WE HOPE WOULD MARK SUCH A VISIT. THEREFORE, WE THINK IT BETTER IF THE QUESTION IS ADDRESSED LATER.

8. I AM CONCERNED THAT EVEN IF WE AGREED ONLY TO ENDORSE THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE WITHOUT BEING MORE SPECIFIC, WE MIGHT WELL SEE, IF BHUTTO THOUGHT IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO DO SO, ARTICLES IN THE PAKISTAN PRESS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD INVITED HIM TO THE STATES. CONSEQUENTLY, UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER READING ON HIS INTENTIONS, I THINK WE SHOULD AVOID ADDRESSING HEAD-ON THE QUESTION OF A VISIT.

9. CIEC ISSUES: I THINK IT SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY THAT AZIZ AHMED WILL RAISE ANY OF THE CIEC ISSUES IN HIS BILATERAL MEETING WITH YOU. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD SEE A PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH YOU OF CERTAIN KEY ASPECTS OF THE

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NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AS A WAY TO MAKE POINTS WITH HIS THIRD WORLD COLLEAGUES. BOTH THIS CONTEXT AND HIS OWN TEMPERAMENTAL

INCLINATION WOULD TEND TO MAKE HIM TAKE A RELATIVELY HARD LINE.

10. THE ISSUE WHICH HE WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO RAISE UNDER THIS RUBRIC IS DEBT RELIEF. PAKISTAN HAS A HEAVY DEBT BURDEN AND HAS FROM THE START PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN LDC EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GENERALIZED DEBT RELIEF. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE ASPECT OF THE US-EC DEBT POSITION MOST LIKELY TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON THE PAKISTANI LEADERSHIP IS THE ARGUMENT THAT PAKISTAN'S AND OTHER POOR COUNTRIES' PROBLEM IS FUNDAMENTALLY ONE OF INADEQUATE RESOURCES, WHICH CAN AS WELL BE DEALT WITH BY IMPROVED AID FLOWS AS BY DEBT RELIEF.

11. RUPEES: THE GOP HAS BEEN TRYING FOR SOME YEARS TO PERSUADE THE US TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT ON OUR EXCESS PAKISTANI RUPEES SIMILAR TO THE US-INDIA RUPEE AGREEMENT. THIS ISSUE LAST CAME UP WHEN BHUTTO RAISED IT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON HIS VISIT TO PAKISTAN LAST SUMMER. KISSINGER TOLD BHUTTO HE WOULD REEXAMINE THE ISSUE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NEA IS INCLUDING SOME MATERIAL ON THE RUPEE QUESTION IN YOUR BRIEFING PAPERS, IN CASE AZIZ AHMED RAISES IT.
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